



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 44

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 6927

House of Representatives, March 13, 2007

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER SERVICE BY PAID EMERGENCY PERSONNEL OR PAID FIREFIGHTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-323s of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

3 (a) No municipality shall prohibit the paid firefighters or paid
4 emergency personnel of such municipality from serving as active
5 members of a volunteer fire department in another municipality
6 during personal time. The municipality that employs the paid
7 firefighter or member of emergency services personnel shall be held
8 harmless for any liability or other claim arising out of such paid
9 firefighter's or paid member's service as a member of a volunteer fire
10 department.

11 (b) The State Fire Administrator, within available appropriations,
12 shall develop model guidelines, on or before January 1, 2007, to be
13 used by municipalities with paid municipal emergency personnel and

14 municipalities with volunteer emergency personnel in entering into
15 agreements authorizing volunteer emergency personnel to serve
16 during personal time.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	7-323s
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PS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

Under the bill, municipalities may not prohibit paid firefighters or paid emergency personnel from serving as active members of another municipality's volunteer fire department during personal time. Employing municipalities are not responsible for claims or other liability arising from any such volunteer service.

This bill will increase costs to certain municipalities if a paid firefighter or emergency services member sustains an injury while serving as a volunteer firefighter. Career fire departments will incur increased personnel costs (e.g., overtime costs) to cover the shifts of the injured worker.

Under current law, volunteer firefighters are considered employees of the town for which they volunteer for workers' compensation purposes.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6927*****AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER SERVICE BY PAID
EMERGENCY PERSONNEL OR PAID FIREFIGHTERS.*****SUMMARY:**

Under this bill, municipalities may not prohibit paid firefighters or paid emergency personnel from serving as active members of another municipality's volunteer fire department on their own time. Employing municipalities are not responsible for claims or other liability arising from any such volunteer service.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/01/2007)